

***What Is Claimed Is:***

1. A method of retrieving web-site based information at a target bandwidth, comprising the steps of:

- 5           (1) receiving a target bandwidth,  $B_T$ ;  
            (2) calculating a wait time,  $T_{WAIT}$ ; and  
            (3) delaying data retrieval by said calculated wait time to retrieve at the target bandwidth,  $B_T$ .

2. The method of claim 1, wherein step (2) comprises the steps of:

- 10           (A) calculating a start time,  $T_{START}$ ;  
            (B) initiating retrieval of data from a remote web-site across a network;  
            (C) detecting a number of bytes received;  
            (D) incrementing an aggregate bytes count,  $bytes_{AGG}$ , by the number of bytes received;  
15           (E) calculating a current time,  $T_{NOW}$ ; and  
            (F) calculating the wait time,  $T_{WAIT}$ .

3. The method of claim 2, wherein step (F) comprises calculating  $T_{WAIT}$  according to the equation:

$$T_{WAIT} = (bytes_{AGG})/B_T - (T_{NOW} - T_{START})$$

20           4. The method of claim 2, wherein step (D) comprises the steps of:

- (i) incrementing the aggregate bytes count,  $bytes_{AGG}$ , by the number of bytes received; and  
            (ii) returning to step (B).

5. The method of claim 2, further comprising the step of:
  - (4) creating an instance of a timing module with a spider engine.
6. The method of claim 2, further comprising the step of:
  - (4) creating a plurality of instances of a timing module with a spider engine.
7. The method of claim 5, wherein step (1) comprises the step of:
  - (A) passing the target bandwidth,  $B_T$ , to the timing module from the spider engine.
8. The method of claim 7, wherein step
  - (5) implementing steps (2)(A), (2)(C), (2)(D), (2)(E), and (2)(F) in the timing module; and
  - (6) implementing steps (2)(B) and (3) in the spider engine.
9. The method of claim 8, wherein step (2) further comprises the step of:
  - (G) passing the calculated wait time,  $T_{WAIT}$ , from the timing module to the spider engine.
10. A system for retrieving web-site based information at a target bandwidth, comprising:
  - receiving means for receiving a target bandwidth,  $B_T$ ;
  - calculating means for calculating a wait time,  $T_{WAIT}$ ; and
  - delaying means for delaying data retrieval by the calculated wait time so that data is retrieved at the desired target bandwidth,  $B_T$ .

11. The system of claim 10, wherein said calculating means comprises:  
means for calculating a start time,  $T_{START}$ ;  
means for initiating retrieval of data from a remote web-site across  
a network;  
5 means for detecting a number of bytes received;  
means for incrementing an aggregate bytes count,  $bytes_{AGG}$ , by the  
number of bytes received;  
means for calculating a current time,  $T_{NOW}$ ; and  
wait time calculating means for calculating wait time,  $T_{WAIT}$ .

10 12. The system of claim 11, wherein said wait time calculating means  
comprises means for calculating  $T_{WAIT}$  according to the equation:

$$T_{WAIT} = (bytes_{AGG})/B_T - (T_{NOW} - T_{START})$$

13. A timing system for retrieving web-site based information using a spider  
engine at a target bandwidth, comprising:  
15 a data receiver for receiving a target bandwidth,  $B_T$ , and at least one bytes  
count from the spider engine;  
a bytes accumulator for accumulating said at least one bytes count  
received from the spider engine to create an aggregate bytes count,  $bytes_{AGG}$ ;  
a current time determiner for determining a start time,  $T_{START}$ , and current  
20 time,  $T_{NOW}$ , for said at least one received bytes count;  
a wait time calculator; and  
a wait time transmitter for transmitting a wait time,  $T_{WAIT}$ , calculated by  
said wait time calculator to the spider engine;  
wherein said wait time is the amount of time the spider engine should wait  
25 to initiate a next web-site data retrieval to reach said target bandwidth;  
wherein said wait time calculator calculates said wait time as a function  
of said  $bytes_{AGG}$ ,  $B_T$ , and an elapsed time ( $T_{NOW} - T_{START}$ ).

14. The system of claim 13, wherein said wait time,  $T_{\text{WAIT}}$ , is calculated according to:

$$T_{\text{WAIT}} = (\text{bytes}_{\text{AGG}})/B_T - (T_{\text{NOW}} - T_{\text{START}}).$$